

AROUND THE WORLD

Scenes Surrounding the Holy Places in Jerusalem—
Dome of the Rock—Garden of Gethsemane.

JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, March 10, 1903.
On the summit of Olivet is a church sometimes called the Church of the Ascension, as it stands at the traditional site from which Christ ascended to heaven. This building, though in possession of the Muslims, has prayer recesses for the Armenians, Copts, Syrians and Greeks. From the minaret a splendid view is obtainable, embracing Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Bethany, the Jordan and Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is visible from the summit of the mount without ascending the minaret.

The Latins possess several important posts on the Mount of Olives. One is the Church of the Creed, where the Apostles' Creed was supposed to have been prepared. Near the church of the Creed is the Church of the Lord's Prayer, the traditional site where Christ taught the disciples the Lord's prayer. Here the Lord's prayer is carved upon slabs of marble in thirty-two languages. These slabs are hung like so many pictures upon the wall of the interior. Here I am reminded that the bible is in the world as a permanent institution and that if every bible were burned, its teachings would remain as every verse from Genesis to Revelation has been quoted and copied in books, making it possible to reproduce it from the world's libraries.

Among the many points of great interest about the Mount of Olives is the chapel of the tomb of the Virgin. This chapel is reached by descending a flight of 47 marble steps. The only part of the church above ground is the porch. Numerous lamps are kept burning in the several wings. The guide points out Joseph's tomb, the sarcophagus of Mary, the altars of the Greeks, Armenians, Abyssinians, and the recess of the Muslims. South of the tomb of the Virgin is the Garden of Gethsemane, comprising about one-third of an acre, surrounded by a stone wall, and in possession of the Latins. The Franciscans keep the gate, having the lock and key in their possession. I shall never forget my sojourn in this garden, hallowed by the most sacred associations. "When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into which he entered and his disciples. And Judas also, which betrayed Him, knew the place; for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with His disciples." John 18:1-2.

"Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith to His disciples, 'Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.' And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then said He unto them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death; tarry ye here, and watch with me.' And He went a little farther, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt. And He cometh unto His disciples and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, 'What could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'" After he had prayed the second and third time, finding them asleep on each return, he said: "Sleep on now and take your rest; behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; behold, he is at hand that doth betray Me." Matthew 26:36-46.

It may well be said of this place, "Take off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Just over the brow of the hill is Bethany, the home of Mary and Martha, where Jesus delighted to visit doubtless because there he was most welcome. "Now, Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." John 11:5. Here it was that He raised Lazarus from the dead. I visited the tomb of Lazarus by descending twenty-five steps cut in the rock. "Now, Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off (two miles). Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him; but Mary sat still in the house." John 11:18-20.

Men have been so sure about positions that they have even erected a splendid church upon the spot where Martha is supposed to have met Jesus. The home of Mary and Martha is now a ruin. Olive trees are almost everywhere. Those within the inclosure of the Garden of Gethsemane appear old enough to have been here when time

was young, but experts are authority for the statement that one of eight is at least one thousand years old and doubtless sprang from the roots of a tree that flourished in the time of Christ.

JERICHO, PALESTINE, March, 1903.
Leaving Jerusalem via the Garden of Gethsemane and Bethany the road to Jericho is traversed. No one could get lost on this road as no roads branch from it. Enroute to Jericho we pass the Apostles' Spring, anciently called En-Shemish, Spring of the Sun, on the boundary between Judah and Benjamin. (Joshua 15:7.)

The next point of importance is the traditional scene of the parable of the Good Samaritan, who rescued the person who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves. Further eastward the road leads alongside the brook Cherith, where Elijah was fed by the ravens. "Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I commanded the ravens to feed thee there." I Kings 17:3-4.

A monastery has been built down by the rippling water between the towering rocks where Elijah is supposed to have spent the time of his waiting.

Descending the hill before Jericho we pass the Pool of Moses whose walls are composed of unhewn stones. This pool is 564x471 feet and belonged to a system which once made this valley to blossom like a vast garden, but which is now almost barren. One writer says, "This is perhaps the remains of a pool constructed by Herod near his palace at Jericho, for this, it appears, is the site of the Jericho of the new testament."

In Deuteronomy 34:3, Jericho is called "the city of palm trees." Once it was the chief city of Canaan, but is now nothing but a mound of ruins. Its beauty has departed and the once mighty city is now only a heap. During the night spent at the hotel near this ancient greatness, I heard the Jackals barking as they prowled about seeking something to satisfy their craving hunger. Dogs barked almost incessantly to keep them company, but so common are they that neither paid much attention to the other. Historic place! Here it was that the spies came; yonder Rahab's house stood upon the wall. "Then she let them (the spies) down by a cord through the window, for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall. Joshua 2:15. About those ruins Joshua's army went for seven days until, at the blast of trumpets, "the walls of Jericho fell down flat." Then the city was burned and Joshua looking back toward it said, "Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth and buildeth this city Jericho." Joshua 6:26.

Herod undertook to rebuild it and received the curse. Elijah spent his last days at Jericho, and crossed the Jordan with Elisha only to be parted from him and ascend to heaven by a whirlwind. II Kings 2:1-11.

The groves and gardens of this city were once celebrated for their beauty, and when Cleopatra wanted to make her lover, Mark Anthony, a present, she gave him these groves and gardens.

Here is the spring at which Elisha healed. "And the men of the city said unto Elisha, behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my Lord seeth; but the water is naught and the ground is barren." And he said, "Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein." And they brought it to him. And he went forth into the spring of the waters, and cast salt in there, and said, Thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters: there shall not be from thence any more dead or barren land. So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha, which he spake." II Kings 2:19-22.

The water gushes forth, providing the bedouins about here with health-giving fluid. Climbing the hill by this spring the ruins are reached. If the sultan would permit this mound to be thoroughly excavated, much of interest to Bible students and the world at large might be brought to light. To the west of old Jericho stands Quarantania, a precipitous mountain, the traditional site of Christ's temptation. Matt. 4:8.

Jericho has a population of about 300 people, who look forsaken, though no more forsaken than the land they occupy. E. C. HORN.
(Continued next week.)



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JOHN F. NEELAND, Plaintiff.
Hemingford, Nebraska, September 15, 1903.
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